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# Advocate of Peace.

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## The Alaska Boundary Decision.

The Commission appointed by our government and that of Great Britain to adjust the question of the Alaska boundary finished their labors and gave their award on the 20th ult. The decision supports practically the entire United States claim. Canada is given the Portland Channel and two of the islands located in it. The other two islands, lying nearer the mouth and closer to the land on the north side, are awarded to the United States. But this part of the award does not materially affect its general establishment of the United States contention. The Portland Channel is at the extreme southern part of the disputed strip, and as Canada already had the right to one half of it, she really gains nothing of value by the concession of the other half and of the two islands.

The award was signed by four of the six Commissioners, and thus becomes final. Sir Louis Jetté and Mr. A. B. Aylesworth, the two Canadians on the Commission, declined to sign the agreement, and, according to press reports, left the room with considerable show of displeasure. Lord Chief Justice Alverstone, the other member for Great Britain, after a thorough examination of the case from the judicial

point of view, as he declares, was convinced of the justice of the United States position, and voted with the American commissioners. And thus the famous controversy is ended, as we confidently expected it would be ended by this Commission, in spite of its unfortunate constitution with three judges on a side.

The decision has occasioned a good deal of dissatisfaction and reprobation in Canada, which we very much regret. We can well understand and sympathize with the serious disappointment of the government and people at a decision which takes from them all hope of direct access to the sea from one-third of the western frontier of their territory. But for the language used by some of the officials and the two Canadian commissioners it is hard to find any justification. The two commissioners, in accepting their appointment, as did the government in naming them, virtually bound themselves in honor to accept in good part whatever judgment might be reached, even if they could not conscientiously sign it. Their charge that Great Britain, through Lord Alverstone, has deliberately sacrificed Canadian interests for the sake of American friendship, is a very grave one for men of such intelligence and standing to make, and one which responsible men rarely ever make without clear and substantial reasons. So is the reported fling of the Canadian Prime Minister, that he regretted that Canada lay alongside the powerful, grasping country on her southern border. This is virtually to charge that either Lord Alverstone had been bullied by the United States into his decision, or corrupted. Such utterances, even though made rashly in moments of passion, are immensely mischievous, for they are not soon forgotten and rankle in the hearts of those against whom they are uttered. They ought never to be indulged in by responsible men on either side of a frontier.

We have no doubt that, so far as regards their attitude toward the United States, the award will be loyally accepted by the Canadian people generally. What effect it may have upon the relations of Canada to Great Britain—for the moment seemingly the most serious aspect of the situation—it is not in place here to discuss. We may be permitted to say, however, that if Canada ever should separate from the mother country, it would be most unfortunate in every way for her to break away in a fit of unreasoning displeasure over some event like this, thus creating a new current of international prejudice and ani-